

believe the sound recommendations in the 2010 DGA support this. The Collins-Udall of Colorado amendment would achieve this by requiring that all fresh fruits and vegetables, including fresh white potatoes, be included in the final USDA rule.

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CODY J. TOWSE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I address the Senate today, as I rise to honor a recently fallen soldier. PFC Cody J. Towse, one of Utah's finest, was killed last month when his patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

PFC Towse loved to help others. He served as a combat medic in the Army, and was a certified EMT and a volunteer firefighter prior to enlistment. He put his special skills to use in serving the United States by saving other soldiers. He recently received a Combat Medic award for performing his medical duties while being actively engaged by the enemy.

Before enlisting in the Army, Cody started a blog to chronicle his time in the military, which he hoped would help other prospective recruits. His blog is filled with comical posts, as well as insightful truths and prophetic statements. In his first post, he wrote, "I've never been quite so excited for anything in my life. I've grown tired of living a mediocre life and can't wait to start a journey full of responsibility, honor, and dedication." PFC Towse lived up to that ideal, and left a shining example for the world to follow.

A Utah newspaper wrote that PFC Towse "was known as the 'Candy Doctor'—a name he earned by showering the children with countless handfuls of fruity or chocolate treats." His father, Jim Towse said that Cody "was my boy. He was me. I love old cars, he loves old cars. Seems like everything I love, he loved." Their special relationship was the kind that only a father and his son could have. Jim also said, "It comforts me to know [Cody] went for a noble cause. He told me, 'You know, Dad, if I go out in a blaze of glory, don't worry. If I can save somebody doing it, all the better.'"

In another blog post, written just before leaving for Afghanistan, PFC Towse poignantly wrote of the deeper thoughts and conflicting feelings our soldiers often face:

I feel like we all walk a fine edge, emotionally at least. A man can't sit around and contemplate the impending possibility of his death all day or he'll go crazy. It can be just as bad for a man to sit around and joke like nothing could ever happen to him and breed a lackadaisical outlook on his mission and get himself or his buddies killed.

Now I'm just rambling. I guess in short I just wanted to say that sometimes the biggest obstacle a man faces is himself and his mind. Yeah, that sounded educated, I'll go with that.

Indeed, each of us would do well to remember and apply the truth of which PFC Towse wrote. In order to overcome challenges in our lives, we must first

overcome our own fears and perceived inadequacies. I believe that Cody Towse lived his life according to this truth.

His commander in Afghanistan reported that when the patrol was attacked, PFC Towse began assisting the wounded. As PFC Towse was performing his duties, a second IED was detonated and the resulting injuries took his life. When I heard of Cody's story, I was reminded of Christ's teaching: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." PFC Towse's dutiful actions were unquestionably an ultimate display of love for his brothers in arms.

I imagine that Cody, like many of our service men and women, would deny the claim that he is a hero. To Cody, and all of our soldiers, I would say that you are among the few heroes left in our modern world. As Americans, we all feel a profound sense of pride and honor when we see a uniformed soldier, and we would be wise to remember our heroes in all that we do, especially in this body.

I thank PFC Cody J. Towse for his honorable service in defense of the Constitution and our freedom, and I thank all of our men and women who have also given the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to convey my condolences and profound gratitude to Cody's parents, Jim and Jamie, his brothers Will and Christian, and his sister Callan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. It is my solemn hope that we, as Senators, will always remember the tremendous sacrifice, laid upon the altar of freedom, of our brave soldiers and their families.

### OFFICE OF RURAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I was proud to join Senator BAUCUS from Montana in introducing legislation on Tuesday to establish an Office of Rural Education Policy at the Department of Education. Senator BAUCUS has been a tireless advocate for many issues affecting rural States like Montana and West Virginia, and I have been proud to work with him on several rural issues over the years. Notably, Senator BAUCUS and I are fortunate to have terrific partners in our work to improve rural education, including a diverse array of organizations that support this bill.

Nearly one quarter of the students in America attend rural schools and the share of students in rural schools is increasing and more than half of the schools in West Virginia are in rural areas. This legislation will support these schools because it creates an Office in the Department of Education to make sure that Federal programs related to education are working for students in schools in rural areas.

Schools in rural communities face special challenges but, they also have unique capabilities. Many of them continue to face shrinking local tax bases, difficulties recruiting and retaining teachers and principals, limited access

to advanced courses, and proportionally higher transportation costs. At the same time, while smaller schools lack economies of scale, they may benefit from this small size and closeness to their communities. Parental involvement and support is typically high, and the potential for innovation is great.

I am very proud of the communities in West Virginia and how they come together, often on their own time and with their own resources, to improve and support their local schools. Schools in West Virginia are also leaders in the use of distance learning given the geographical obstacles of our mountainous State. But, we need to make sure rural schools, including many in West Virginia, have the tools to succeed and access to the same opportunities that many schools in urban areas have, including health care, technology, and education.

The Office of Rural Education Policy is modeled after the successful Office of Rural Health Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, which Congress established in 1987. The Office will be led by a director charged with coordinating the activities of the Department of Education concerning rural education. It will establish and maintain a clearinghouse for issues faced by rural schools, such as teacher and principal recruitment and retention; partnerships with community-based organizations; and financing of rural schools.

The office will identify innovative research and demonstration projects on rural schools, and recommend research to bridge any gaps. It will issue an annual report on the condition of rural education, and an analysis of the impact on rural education from proposed regulations and other activities will be made public.

Rural schools have been a part of our national fabric since its very beginning. These students deserve the attention from the Department of Education this legislation will provide. It has been said that education in rural America is "too large to be ignored but too small and diverse to be highly visible." We need to establish this Office so that education in these communities can thrive and so that its successes are more visible. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF GRISWOLD v. CONNECTICUT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 48th anniversary of the landmark *Griswold v. Connecticut* Supreme Court decision. Nearly 50 years ago, the Court greatly expanded women's access to health care by legalizing the use of contraception by married couples, basing this decision on a fundamental right to privacy in family planning decisions made between a man and a wife.

We have come a long way since 1965. Today, options for birth control are